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IT'S CAMP TIME

A discussion among Henry M. Walker, Station 4-H Club Leader; C. A. Bond, State Extension Editor; Miss Betty Kind, 4-H Leader; and Dale Johnson, 4-H Club member, Spokane County, Washington -- broadcast in the National 4-H Club Program Saturday, May 7, 1938, by the National Broadcasting Company and 90 associated radio stations.

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SPOKANE ANNOUNCER:

Greetings, 4-H Club members -- and all the rest.

We are speaking to you from Spokane, on the eastern border of the State of Washington. Eighty miles south of Spokane is Pullman, home of the State College of Washington. In little more than a month from now, leading 4-H members and leaders from the 48,000 farms in the State will converge on the State College Campus for the annual state 4-H club camp. We are now going to hear something about that camp and what the 4-H boys and girls will do there. Henry M. Walker, State 4-H Club Leader, and C. A. Bond, State Extension Editor, will give us some background information about the camp; Miss Betty King, 4-H leader, is to talk on what the camp means to leaders; and Dale Johnson, who has never been to club camp, will tell us what he expects to find there.

Without further preamble I turn the microphone over to Mr. Bond.

BOND:

Thank you, Mr. Black. As you say, Mr. Walker and I are going to spend a few minutes in historical and other generalizations about our State 4-H club camp. Walker, suppose I start by shooting a question at you.

WALKER:

O.K. Al, fire at will.

BOND:

All right, here goes. You haven't any gray whiskers, but can you go far enough back into history to tell me when the Washington State 4-H Club Camp was started.

WALKER:

Well, it wasn't so awfully long ago--June 1922 in fact. At that time only 29 of the states' 39 counties had club work and the delegations were restricted to five from each county. Twenty-three counties sent delegates to the total of 121 boys and girls.

BOND:

And the purpose--Why was the camp arranged?

WALKER:

To give encouragement and training to rural boys and girls who were selected because of their proven ability, ambition and qualities of leadership.

(over)

BOND:

I guess that purpose hasn't altered much in the 17 years, since 1922. From my knowledge of the annual camp in recent years it is fullfilling the same aims now that it was designed to do then. It seems to me, too, that club camp must give the delegates no little inspiration, and also a few experiences to take home with them. It's the first time many of them have been away from home, I imagine.

WALKER:

Yes, that certainly is true. You might be surprised to learn that many club members coming to camp for the first time have never seen telephones, never ridden on trains.

BOND:

You said the first club camp had an enrollment of 121. I remember that last year the attendance set a new high with a few more than 1,000.

WALKER:

And if I'm not mistaken this year's attendance will be more than that. They will be coming from each county in the state and from six Indian reservations besides, where 4-H club work is carried on. Some of them will start their trip by boat or bus, but most of them will finish by train, through special arrangements with the various railroads serving the State.

BOND:

And what a finish. Anyone who has ever participated in an affair like the Washington State 4-H club camp, can imagine what it is like when several hundred boys and girls arrive in a strange town about midnight. The entire extension service staff and former 4-H'ers in College have a busy time getting each member and his baggage together and then seeing that each boy, or girl is sent to the right dormitory and "Bedded down" for the night. But that's your job, Walker. Suppose you tell us just how you take care of these youngsters and their leaders for four or five days.

WALKER:

As you've indicated, Al, they sleep in college dormitories. We used four of them last year. We have a "Colonel" who is in charge of all the dormitories, with one "major" and several "captains" in charge of each dorm. All these are former 4-H members. When the youngsters arrive each dorm holds a "house meeting." At this meeting officers are elected and the housing rules explained. Each delegate brings his own bedding and toilet articles. We provide the beds and mattresses. Sleeping is only part of the problem, however, the boys and girls, their leaders and the county extension workers have to be fed. We accomplish this in two shifts in four large college dining halls.

BOND:

Yes, I remember a story we had in the "Daily Owl" last year -- the daily paper put out during club camp. This story said that it would take a herd of 30 cows to provide enough milk for one meal for these hungry clubsters. In one of the halls for one meal it took 110 pounds of roast beef, 72 pounds of asparagus, 125 pounds of potatoes, 336 hot rolls, 15 gallons of milk and 28 bricks of ice cream. That hall used 25 pounds of butter that day.

WALKER:

Sounds like a real thrashing crew dinner.

BOND:

I we talk any more about food I'm going to need a sandwich. Suppose we change the subject and you outline what else these youngsters do besides eat.

WALKER:

Well, part of the time they spend in recreation, of course. But for regular periods each day they attend classes in demonstrations, judging and similar activities that will train them for 4-H leadership in their local communities. Several large groups are formed alphabetically. Then these groups are rotated, so that each group gets to take part in all the classes. Extension specialists, resident faculty members and county agents are the class leaders. Two assembly periods are held each day, for which outstanding speakers are secured. At these assemblies during the week, state demonstration, yell and song contests are conducted. Group singing also is a big feature.

Our greatest inspirational event is the candelighting ceremony, symbolizing the cardinal principals of 4-H club work. The entire camp participates in this event, with lights from the glittering candles forming the only illumination. Last year Idaho 4-H'ers attending their camp at Mowcow, Idaho, only nine miles away, were guests at the Washington ceremony. This year Idaho will act as hosts for the 1,000 Washington boys and girls at a joint ritual.

Words cannot express the reaction of an audience to the simple dignified ceremony that is designed to express the ideals of the 4 H's Head, Heart, Hand and Health.

BOND:

That will be a thrilling spectacle. Well, Walker, I see that our friend Black is giving evidence of the fact that he wants to present Miss King.

WALKER:

That sounds like a good idea.

SPOKANE ANNOUNCER:

Al, you and Henry Walker have given us a good description of how the State 4-H club camp is organized--just right, in fact. And this is just the spot to bring in the part that pertains to local leaders. Miss Betty King of Lincoln County, one of the younger leaders, will tell us about that. Miss King is secretary of the State Leaders Association, won a trip to the National 4-H Club Camp at Washington, D. C. last year, and is a sophomore at Washington State College, - Miss King.

KING:

Good morning, 4-H'ers. At least it's still morning where we are, although, I know it's lunch time for some of you.

Before telling you what we leaders do at our State Club Camp I want to assure you that the camp is something which I look forward to each year with

a great deal of pleasure, and I think every club member and every leader does the same. You see, I have been a club member for seven years and a local leader for five. I have attended club camp each year--except last year when I was in Washington, D.C. at the National Camp. And I expect to be at the state camp again this summer.

Each camp, it seems to me, is better than the one before, because there are always new ideas for leaders and members to take home to their communities.

I might not have become a local leader if it were not for the state club camp. I knew that someday I would be too old to go to camp as a club member, and so I became a leader. A club leader has to keep informed on various subjects, to answer the member's questions. Club Camp gives me this information.

Many new leaders think all they have to do to lead a club is to see that Johnnie gets his garden planted and his record book in, or that Susie can make baking powder biscuits. After one trip to club camp they soon find there is a good deal more to it than that. You see, I was that kind of leader myself. After listening to the wonderful project instructions and seeing educational movies and other features, I soon learned that club leadership required considerably more effort than I had anticipated.

Now for a word about what we do at camp. All the leaders belong to the State Leaders' Association. Our annual meeting is held at club camp. There are seven geographical districts in the Association. Each district has a vice president of the State Association, and one of these vice presidents is elected state president. At the state meeting we discuss the state camp and make suggestions for its improvement, and outline our year's activities.

Last year in connection with club camp a leader's training school was held. County and state extension workers and State College professors gave talks on topics such as: "The leader's job", "Some Adolescent Characteristics," "The Conservation of Youth" and "The Field of Extension Work." Each day a certain number of hours were set aside for discussion of definite difficulties that confront leaders. Problems such as planning programs, getting subject matter, training in judging and demonstrations, getting members to keep records and securing parents and community cooperation.

I remember one of our local leaders at camp who had been a club member in the middle west said she was indeed surprised to see what splendid organization and excellent project instruction we had at our state camp. I hope that this is the picture I have given you in these few minutes, and I hope that I may have given 4-H workers in other states one or two ideas which may help them in their work. I thank you.

SPOKANE ANNOUNCER:

Thank you, Miss King. As the concluding feature in this part of the National Farm and Home Hour, C. A. Bond, Extension Editor is going to talk to Dale Johnson, Spokane County 4-H boy, and find out what Dale expects to get out of the State Club Camp. Dale is planning to attend camp this year for the first time. Come in, Al.

BOND:

Well, Dale, let's start out by getting you identified. I think you told me this is your third year in club work. You also mentioned the projects you're taking, but I can't remember all of them. Tell me again the clubs you belong to.

JOHNSON:

I am a member of the Orchard Avenue Swine Club, the Millwood Dairy Club and the Spokane County Beef Feeding Club. The first year I was in club work I was a swine club member and last year I took the swine and beef feeding projects.

BOND:

That's quite a program, Dale. When you're not feeding pigs or cows, I suppose you spend part of your time in school.

JOHNSON:

Yes, I go to the West Valley High School, near Spokane, where I'm a freshman. I play basketball there, too.

BOND:

That does complicate your day's schedule, I expect. All that makes it hard for you to get in any club work, I should think.

JOHNSON:

Well, it does make it a little hard. You see I spent about two hours a day on my club projects this winter.

BOND:

Yes, two hours a day is quite a bit of time. I hope it paid you well. Because it's going to cost you a little money to come to club camp you know. The registration fee is \$8.00.

JOHNSON:

Yes, I know. I've made that much off my 4-H projects and more besides. Last year I cleared \$42 on my beef project by showing and selling two calves at the Spokane Junior Livestock Show. And this year in the same show I made \$42 in prizes and from the sale of one calf and three pigs.

BOND:

Well, Dale, that detail seems well taken care of. Now tell me where you got the idea you wanted to come to club camp.

JOHNSON:

Oh, I heard about club camp from the other kids in my clubs who had gone there. They made reports to our club meetings and they seemed to have a good time and get some valuable information.

BOND:

So you thought you'd try it yourself. Not a bad idea. Being a member of swine, beef and dairy clubs, I suppose you are going to be interested in the Livestock judging classes and contests.

JOHNSON:

Yes, I expect to learn lots about livestock at the State Club Camp. You see, I want to learn as much as I can to help me in my projects next year. Another thing that I've heard about there that I think is going to be lots of fun is the community singing. According to what I've been told, everybody gets a big kick out of singing "Build Up The Farm" and lots of other club songs. I know there are other classes besides the ones in livestock that I'm going to be interested in, too. Then, I know that everybody gets a 4-H hat to wear, and an arm band. I'm going to try to have lots of fun, too. I'm looking forward to the trip as a real vacation.

BOND:

We certainly want to have lots of fun, Dale. You said something about the community singing in the assembly periods, but you know, we do lots of other things in assembly besides that.

JOHNSON:

Oh, yes, I know that. I remember hearing something about a State 4-H club. But I don't know much about that.

BOND:

Well, Dale, I won't tell you all about the State Club now. But there is one, allright. They help conduct the assembly meetings and then on the last day they hold their business meeting with election of offices and presentation of awards.

You know, there's one thing that's been bothering me. You say you've been a 4-H club member for three years and yet you've never been to the State Camp, although you seem to want to go.

JOHNSON:

It's not because I haven't wanted to go before. It's because I haven't been old enough. We have a rule in Spokane County that you have to be a club member for two years and must be 14 years old before you can come to the State Camp.

BOND:

That's a state rule, too, Dale. Now, have you anything you'd like to ask me?

JOHNSON:

Yes. I've been wondering just how I am going to go about getting acquainted with all those other club members when I get to Pullman.

BOND:

You don't need to worry much about that Dale. In the first place you'll get a blank autograph book. So if you see some boy -- or girl -- you'd like to meet, all you have to do is just go over and ask them to sign your book. Then you'll get acquainted with lots of other members in the dormitories and dining room.

Now just one thing more. How are you going to find your way around down there? Have you ever been on the campus before?

JOHNSON:

Yes, I've been on the WSC campus, but I've never had a chance to have anyone show me over it and point out the buildings. I want to do that this time, because, you see, I may be taking an agricultural course there after I get through high school.

BOND:

That's fine, Dale, I hope you do. And that, I think is a good note to end this discussion on.

SPOKANE ANNOUNCER:

For the past 15 minutes from Spokane, 4-H club members and workers from the State of Washington have been discussing their annual State 4-H Club Camp, to be held on the campus of the State College of Washington, June 14 to 18. Heard on the program were Henry M. Walker, State 4-H Club Agent; Miss Betty King, local 4-H leader; Dale Johnson, 4-H club boy and C. A. Bond, Extension Editor.

WE RETURN YOU NOW TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

